

Arizona Central West Zone Incident Management Team

Black Mountain Complex NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release Contact numbers – (928) 753-5189 Friday, June 09, 2006, 8 p.m. (602) 228-8399

Acres: 8,599 Start date: Wednesday, June 7, 2006

Location: west and northwest of Kingman, AZCause: LightningContainment: 0 percentCost: \$400,845Fuels: Grassland, desert scrub, juniperTerrain: Rough

Threats: 5 Structures, archeological sites, big horn sheep and desert tortoise habitat

Projected Containment: June 15, 2006 Resources: 16 crews, 13 engines, 4 water tenders

Air support available: 3 helicopters, 1 air attack, 6 single engine air tankers, 5 heavy air tankers

Total personnel: 450

At 8 a.m. on Friday, June 09, 2006, the Arizona Central West Zone Incident Management Team, Tony Sciacca Incident Commander, assumed responsibility for management of the suppression efforts on the Black Mountain Complex. This incident is comprised of the Air Ranch Fire, the Union Fire, the Secret Fire and the Nutt Fire. The incident command post has been established on the Kingman High School campus in Kingman, Arizona.

The Secret Fire, 1450 acres, and Nutt Fire, 149 acres, are burning within the Mount Nutt Wilderness area west of Kingman, inaccessible by vehicle. Personnel working these fires are hiking in to the fires or may be air lifted to their assignments. The Air Ranch and Union Fires, north of Highway 68, northwest of Kingman have burned together into a single fire of 7000 acres. All of the fires are generating smoke which is visible to persons traveling along Highways 93 and 68. Although poor visibility due to smoke may be, at times, an issue along these routes, the fires are not threatening either highway. Buildings and communications towers previously threatened were successfully protected by burnout operations and fuel abatement efforts.

Fire officials attribute the cause of the fires to multiple lightning strikes in the area Wednesday evening. Additional fires along local highways and Interstate 40 have been quickly contained today. Residents and visitors in the public lands around Kingman are asked to continue to comply with posted fire restrictions to help prevent more fires.